Impact and Context Report: Central Fife Centre of Mission

Church Army’s Research Team

## Introduction

This short report provides an overview of the work that’s been taking place at Central Fife Centre of Mission (CoM) throughout the financial year 2022-2023, then situates that work within its local context using national census data.

The first section of this report summarises data provided by Church Army evangelists in order to describe the activities undertaken by the CoM, as well as the CoM’s social impact and the ways in which people are exploring and developing faith through the work of the CoM.

The second section of the report uses data from the *Central Statistics Office’s* 2022 census of the Republic of Ireland to describe the population who live within the area local to the CoM.

## Section 1: Activities and impact

The data in this section of the report summarise the Centre of Mission’s activity between November 2022 and March 2023.

### CoM Activities

This year Central Fife CoM has facilitated over 820 hours of activity for approximately 212 people - an average of 164 hours per month. Activities coordinated by Central Fife CoM include:

* 12 midday Iona prayer every day
* Bite and a blether pantry £2.50 selection
* Bible reflection/ Alpha
* Class support (Primary School)
* Coffee morning (online)
* Chaplaincy to Warout Primary School

## Growing faith

Growing faith can’t always be seen and is tricky to measure, but there have been some encouraging developments at Central Fife CoM, including:

* There have been two requests to assist with the baptism of an infant.
* There have been four requests for confirmation
* There have been five requests to assist with a funeral
* There are at least five people growing in faith
* There are at least three people actively exploring faith
* One person has made a recommitment of faith

### Food provision

Central Fife CoM have provided 2750 food parcels over the course of the year. Details of this provision are given in the table below.

| Food provision | No. boxes/parcels/meals | Details |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Community Kitchen | 60 | 2 days a week |
| Community Meal | 25 | 2 tables, one with young children from the school the other with adults. They take it in turns to create a quiz and provide prizes. |
| Community Pantry | 2665 | providing food for 36 regular families from the community and 4-6 emergency parcels weekly. |

### Other essentials

As well as food, the CoM also provided the following essential items or services:

| Provision | No. Items/parcels | Details |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Community Shower | — | slowly getting risk assessments completed. |
| Community Pantry | — | personal hygeine |
| Disabled changing space | — | looking to fund a hoist in the disabled room |

### Volunteers

There are 12 volunteers at Central Fife CoM. The church backgrounds of these volunteers are shown in the table below:

| Church background | % |
| --- | --- |
| Regular church-goer | 25% |
| Occasional church-goer | 0% |
| Historical church-goer | 50% |
| Never church-goer | 25% |

## Section 2: Local context

This section of the report describes, at a high level, the characteristics of the area in which the CoM operates. Since many Centres of Mission are set up via a partnership between Church Army and a host diocese, each CoM’s area of operation is compared to the population profiles of the local diocese as well as the nation as a whole.

The tables and figures in this section describe the CoM’s area of operation in terms of:

* Age
* Ethnicity
* Religion
* Self-reported general health
* Household composition

All the data in this section of the report were collected in the *Central Statistics Office’*s 2022 census of the Republic of Ireland.

### Methodology

Researchers consulted the lead evangelist at each CoM in order to determine the specific geographical areas in which the CoM operates. These might include, for example, the specific estate on which a CoM runs its activities, or a particular area of housing inhabited by regular attendees of the CoM’s activities. The population characteristics of these areas were approximated via a weighted summation of the populations of the small areas of statistical geography (i.e. output areas) that intersected the area described by the lead evangelist. The weights for this summation were the respective relative intersections of each small area with the area under consideration.

### Age

[Figure 1](#fig-age) and [Table 1](#tbl-age) respectively show the ages of the population at the local, diocesan and national level.

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| Figure 1: Population ages in 10 year bands |

Table 1: Population ages in 10 year bands

|  | CoM | Diocese | Scotland |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0-9 years old | 10% | 9% | 10% |
| 10-19 years old | 11% | 11% | 11% |
| 20-29 years old | 10% | 11% | 12% |
| 30-44 years old | 18% | 17% | 19% |
| 45-59 years old | 21% | 21% | 21% |
| 60-69 years old | 13% | 13% | 13% |
| 70+ years old | 15% | 16% | 14% |

### Ethnicity

[Figure 2](#fig-ethnicity) and [Table 2](#tbl-ethnicity) show, at a very high level, the self-reported ethnicity of the population across each geography.

The population within the Centre of Missions area of operations is 97% white. Although this is 5 percentage points higher than the national average, it is very similar to the distribution of ethnicities within the diocese.

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| Figure 2: Population ethnicities |

Table 2: Population ethnicities

|  | CoM | Diocese | Scotland |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| White | 97% | 96% | 93% |
| Asian | 2% | 2% | 4% |
| Mixed/multiple | 1% | 1% | 1% |
| African | 0% | 0% | 1% |
| Other | 0% | 1% | 1% |

### Religion

[Figure 3](#fig-religion) and [Table 3](#tbl-religion) show the religious beliefs of the population across each geography.

The population within the CoM’s area of operations are 64% irreligious, which is an increase of 7 percentage points compared to the population of the diocese, and 13 percentage points compared to the nation.

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| Figure 3: Population religions |

Table 3: Population religions

|  | CoM | Diocese | Scotland |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No religion | 64% | 57% | 51% |
| Church of scotland | 18% | 21% | 20% |
| Roman catholic | 7% | 8% | 13% |
| Religion not stated | 5% | 6% | 6% |
| Other christian | 4% | 5% | 5% |
| Other | 2% | 2% | 4% |

## Local Deprivation

[Figure 4](#fig-deprivation-map) shows a map of relative deprivation of the local area. Small areas that are coloured in red are in the 5% most deprived areas nationally, those coloured orange are in the 10% most deprived, and those coloured yellow are in the 20% most deprived. Transparent areas are outside of the 20% most deprived areas in the nation.

Relative deprivation data is sourced from the 2020 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). If you would like to know more about SIMD, you can find out about it [here](https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/).

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| Figure 4: Map of local deprivation (SIMD2020) |